

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Using a local anesthetic or a mixture of several local anesthetics anesthetics in preparing an agent treating joint pains, wherein characterized in that
 - (A) the The local anesthetic or the mixture of local anesthetics anesthetics is dissolved in a bio-compatible solvent, and
 - (B) The the local anesthetic is selected from a that group which that is toxic to axons and the nociceptive nerve endings.
2. (Currently Amended) Application as defined in claim 1, characterized in that wherein the local anesthetic is predominantly toxic to pain-conducting (nociceptive) nerve fibers.
3. (Currently Amended) Application as claimed in either of claims 1 and 2, -characterized in that claim 1, wherein the local anesthetic is less neurotoxic to motor and proprioceptive nerve fibers than to sensitive nerve fibers.,
4. (Currently Amended) Application as claimed in one of claims 1

through 3, characterized in that claim 1, wherein the local anesthetic is used at a concentration larger than 4 %.

5. (Currently Amended) Application as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that wherein the local anesthetic is used jointly with an acidic additive lowering the pH value.

6. (Currently Amended) Application as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that wherein the additive is a bisulfite.

7. (Currently Amended) Application as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that wherein the additive is a bisulfite, preferably sodium bisulfite (NaHSO_3).

8. (Currently Amended) Application as claimed in one of claims 5 through 7, characterized in that claim 5, wherein the additive is used at a concentration of at least 1 % by weight, preferably at least 2 % by wt.

9. (Currently Amended) Application as claimed in one of claims 5 through 8, characterized in that claim 5, wherein the pH-lowering additive lowers the agent pH to less than 3.5, preferably to less than 3.2.

10. (Currently Amended) Application as claimed in one of claims 5 through 9, characterized in that claim 5, wherein the local anesthetic is an amide.

11. (Currently Amended) Application as claimed in ~~one of claims 5 through 10, characterized in that claim 5, wherein~~ the local anesthetic is lidocaine, preferably at a concentration larger than 6 %.

12. (Currently Amended) Application as claimed in ~~one of claims 5 through 10, characterized in that claim 5, wherein~~ the local anesthetic is prilocaine, preferably at a concentration larger than 3 %.

13. (Currently Amended) Application as claimed in ~~one of claims 5 through 10, characterized in that claim 5, wherein~~ the local anesthetic is mepivacaine, preferably at a concentration larger than 5 %.

14. (Currently Amended) Application as claimed in ~~one of claims 5 through 10, characterized in that claim 5, wherein~~ the local anesthetic is bupivacaine, preferably at a concentration larger than 1.5 %.

15. (Currently Amended) Application as claimed in ~~one of claims 5 through 10, characterized in that claim 5, wherein~~ the local anesthetic is levobupivacaine, preferably at a concentration larger than 5 %.

16. (Currently Amended) Application as claimed in ~~one of claims 5 through 10, characterized in that claim 5, wherein~~ the local anesthetic is ropivacaine, preferably at a concentration larger than 2 %.

17. (Currently Amended) Application as claimed in ~~one of claims 5 through 10, characterized in that claim 5, wherein~~ the local anesthetic is etidocaine, preferably at a concentration larger than 2 %.

18. (Currently Amended) Application as claimed in ~~one of claims 5 through 10, characterized in that claim 5, wherein~~ the local anesthetics procaine, preferably at a concentration larger than 3 %.

19. (Currently Amended) Application as claimed in ~~one of claims 5 through 10, characterized in that claim 5, wherein~~ the local anesthetic is chloroprocaine, preferably at a concentration larger than 3 %.

20. (Currently Amended) Application as claimed in ~~one of claims 5 through 10, characterized in that claim 5, wherein~~ the local anesthetic is tetracaine or a substituted tetracaine, preferably N-butyl-tetracaine.

21. (Currently Amended) Application as claimed in claim 20, characterized in ~~that wherein~~ the local anesthetic is used at a concentration larger than 4 %, preferably larger than 6 %.

22. (Currently Amended) Application as claimed in claim 21, characterized in ~~that wherein~~ the local anesthetics used at a concentration larger than 6 %, preferably larger than 8 %.

23. (Currently Amended) Application as claimed in ~~one of claims 5 through 22, characterized in that claim 5, wherein~~ a mixture of at least two different local anesthetics is used, preferably ~~jointly together~~ with a bisulfite or other pH-lowering substances.

24. (Currently Amended) Application as claimed in claim 23, characterized in ~~that wherein~~ a mixture of ~~at least three~~ three or four local ~~anesthetics~~anesthetics is used.

25. (Currently Amended) Application as claimed in ~~either of claims 23 and 24, characterized in that claim 23, wherein~~ a mixture of tetracaine and bupivacaine is used.

26. (Currently Amended) Application as claimed in ~~one of claims 5 through 25, characterized in that claim 5, wherein~~ the local anesthetic is used in pure, enantiomeric form.

27. (Currently Amended) Application as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 through 26, characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~ the neurotoxic substances belong to the following group: bisulfites, preferably alkali bisulfites.

28. (Currently Amended) Application as claimed in ~~one of claims 5 through 27, characterized in that claim 5, wherein~~ a phenol or a phenol derivative inclusive analogues and their pharmacologically acceptable salts are used in

addition to the local anesthetic.

29. (Currently Amended) Application as claimed in claim 28, characterized ~~in that wherein~~ the phenol derivatives belong to the group of cresols, in particular ortho-, meta- and para-cresols and their derivatives.

30. (Currently Amended) Application as claimed in claim 29, characterized ~~in that wherein~~ the chloro-cresols comprise in particular 2-chloro-m-cresol, 3-chloro-p-cresol, 4-chloro-m-cresol, 3-chloro-o-cresol, 6-chloro-o-cresol, 2-chloro-p-cresol, 5-chloro-o-cresol, 6-chloro-m-cresol and 4-chloro-o-cresol.

31. (Currently Amended) Application as claimed in claim 28, characterized ~~in that wherein~~ the phenol derivatives belong to the group of eugenols and their derivatives.

32. (Currently Amended) Application as claimed in claim 28, characterized ~~in that wherein~~ the phenol derivatives belong to the group of the thymols and their derivatives.

33. (Currently Amended) Application as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 through 32, characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~ an x-ray contrast agent is used in addition to the neurotoxic substances and ~~preferably contains~~ gadolinium, iodine or barium.

34. (Currently Amended) Application as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 through 33, characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~ glycerin is used preferably at a concentration of 10 to 95 % by wt in addition to the neurotoxic substances.

35. (Currently Amended) Application as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 through 34, characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~ steroids are used in addition to the neurotoxic substances.

36. (Currently Amended) Application as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 through 35, characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~ a vasoconstrictor selected from the group consisting of, preferably Adrenalin, noradrenaline, phenylephrine or and ornipressine, is used in addition to the neurotoxic substances.

37. (Currently Amended) Application as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 through 36, characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~ the neurotoxic substances are dissolved in a biocompatible solvent, preferably in glycerin, iophendylate or propyleneglycol.

38. (Currently Amended) Application as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 through 37, characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~ the neurotoxic substances are used for purposes of denervating and neurolysis in the degeneratively diseased joints.

39. (Currently Amended) Application as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 through 37, characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~ a permeation enhancer, preferably

dimethyl sulfoxide, is used in addition to the neurotoxic substances.

40. (Currently Amended) ~~Method-A method for treating joint pains,~~
~~characterized in that wherein~~

one local anesthetic or a mixture of several local ~~anesthetics~~anesthetics is injected into the intra-capsular region or into the joint synovial pouch of the pain-afflicted joint, the local anesthetic or the mixture of several local anesthetics being dissolved in a bio-compatible solvent and the local anesthetic being selected from ~~that the~~ group ~~which~~that is toxic to the axons and to the nociceptive nerve endings.

41. (Currently Amended) ~~Method-The method~~ for treating joint pain as claimed in claim 40, ~~characterized in that wherein the a the~~ local anesthetic or a mixture of several local anesthetics is dissolved in a bio-compatible solvent and in ~~that wherein preferably~~ a liquid volume of 0.1 to 150 ml is injected into the intra-capsular region or into the joint synovial pouch of the pain-afflicted joint.

42. (Currently Amended) ~~Method-The method~~ as claimed in either of claims 40 and 41, ~~characterized in that claim 40, wherein~~ the nociceptive nerve fibers are rendered pain-insensitive by the local anesthetic or the mixture of several local anesthetics for at least 14 days, ~~preferably at least 8 weeks~~.

43. (Currently Amended) ~~Method-The method~~ as claimed in one of claims 40 through 42, ~~characterized in that claim 40, wherein~~ the local anesthetic or the mixture of several local anesthetics is used at a concentration entailing neurolysis.